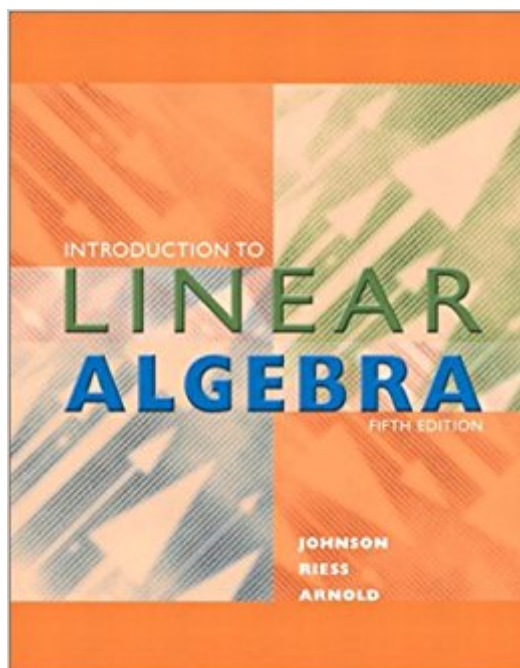# Introduction To Linear Algebra (5th Edition)

Synopsis

This edition contains a new section covering elementary vector-space ideas, for example subspace, basis, and dimension, introduced in the familiar setting of R.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a university professor. My predecessors had taught from this book, and so I borrowed a copy to see what I thought. I was *not* impressed.The book adopts an approach to linear algebra that is quite common, and in my opinion rather unfortunate. It is very hasty, introducing a large number of concepts, definitions, vocabulary items, and algorithms quickly, but at a fairly superficial level so that a student doesn't have an adequate chance to absorb the underlying concepts. Sometimes the concepts are not sufficiently motivated. For example, in Section 1.6 the student is taught what the transpose of a matrix is, but not why the transpose is interesting or relevant. The whole first chapter comes across as a jumble, and I would find it difficult to see the forest for the trees.I suspect that the book goes hand-in-hand with the kind of math course where the professor presents a bunch of proofs, but none of the students really understand them and the professor doesn't seem to notice or care. Then, the exams consist of a bunch of rote algorithmic problems (compute the nullspace of this matrix, the set of solutions to some set of linear equations, etc.) for which solution techniques will be memorized and then forgotten quickly after the semester is over.I don't want to be *so* harsh, and I would give more stars if there was less competition, but there are better books out there. Strang's is very well suited for anyone interested in applications and/or numerical applications. There is a delightful book by Hefferon, available free (and totally legally!) from the

author's website (just google "Hefferon Linear Algebra"), which is well suited to students with some exposure to abstract mathematics.

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